Export House Status to Tourism Industry

1229. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to accord export house status to the tourism industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives to be achieved;

(c) whether relevant instructions in this regard have already been issued to States and Union territories; and

(d) if so, the names of tourism units in Andhra Pradesh to be benefited from this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 dated 26.11.98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I).

(c) and (d) The benefits under the above Notification is applicable to the above mentioned Tourism Units located all over the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Development of Jatinga and Water Tourist Spot at Parimur in Assam

1230. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the famdus Bird Mystery at Jatinga and Water Tourist Spot at Parimur in the North Cachar Hills District of Assam;

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken by Government for development of Jatinga Bird Mystery and Water Tourist Spot at Parimur as Tourist Places:

(c) the details of proposals formulated and initiated by Government for the development; and

(d) the details of budgetary provisions made by Government for the said purpose during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. If the State Government wants to develop tourism projects in this area, it can prioritize these projects for Central assistance.

(c) and (d) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State

Government. The Ministry of Tourism extends financial asitance to the State Governments on the basis of specific proposals, interse-priority and availability of funds. During 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 288.88 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Government of Assam. During the current financial year (1998-99), proposals have been prioritised for Rs. 397.00 lakhs.

Growth of Tourism

1231. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of international tourists that India has received during the last five years, has not shown any significant growth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the tourists are charged more in India by tourism industry than their counterparts in other countries;

(d) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the findings and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (al and (b) Total